

15 The Village Pond



Location	Back Lane
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Originally a depression in the ground containing a bicycle frame and associated cast iron, the pond was dug out in 1987 by Ian Haines and Jim Bacon using machinery kindly loaned by Charles and Rocco Forte at Ryde Farm on the Forte Estate. It is oval in shape (20m x 10m) with an island (5m x 3m) in the middle and is up to 1 metre deep. This peaceful setting in Back Lane can be appreciated by sitting in the shade of an ash tree, on Joan and Tom Hood's garden seat, who lived in Timber Cottage for many years.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Flora on banks: Very old Oak, pollarded Poplars, Ash, Elm hedgerow (see 16), Grey Sallow (<i>Salix cinerea</i>), Gunnera Manicata, dogwood, dogrose, thistle, vetch, Cow Parsley, Oxeye daisy, buttercup, Great Willowherb, Red Clover, nettle, dock and various grasses o Flora in water: <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> (Yellow Flag Iris), <i>Typha latifolia</i> (Bulrush, Cattail, Reed Mace) <i>Typha angustifolia</i> (Lesser Bulrush), <i>Potamogeton</i> (Pondweed) <i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i> (Tufted Hair-Grass). o Fauna in and on the water: mallard, moorhen, <i>Coenagrion puella</i> (azure damselfly), water boatman, numerous small flying insects attract swallows and martins. o Finches and small garden birds use the hedge to nest.
Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Water of varying depths up to 1 metre. Margins of shallow water and substantial reed areas. Grassy and reed banks with plenty of cover. Island quite overgrown with grass and plants (dogrose, young trees)
Species Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ See attached Species list ✓ Dragonflies and Damselflies
Current Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The pond was fully dredged in October 2005 by machine (images available) but the water and banks have not had annual maintenance since. o Adjacent grass is mowed several times a year. Hedge is cut and/or laid every two years. o Grass verge adjacent to Back Lane is left high to discourage birds, especially young, from venturing onto the lane.
Management Guidance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Engage annual pond management from knowledgeable expert. Consistently using the same pond service will ensure continuity of habitat, flora and fauna plans, management and maintenance activity. 2 It has been suggested that the pond plantlife has little variety and should be supplemented. Further advice/research is needed before introducing new plant species to this country pond. 3 Avoid the introduction of fish which will reduce the diversity of creatures in the water. Communicate with the new Fishing Club to NOT introduce fish to the pond as happened in past years so they could go fishing! 4 The island should be cut back to prevent trees/shrubs growing on it. Allow 1/2 meter uncut grass by the pond edges. 5 Create wood log pile from tree or hedge cuttings near the hedge-side bank of the pond. Leave pond reeds in permanent heap behind the pond to decompose. Leave the northerly pond runoff area to grow tall adjacent to the hedge.